AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for introducing a drag reducer into a fluid stream comprising admixing ~~the components of a drag reduce~~ at least a non-shear-sensitive first drag reducer component and a non-shear-sensitive second drag reducer component to form ~~an~~ a non-shear-sensitive incipient drag reducer, and injecting the non-shear-sensitive incipient drag reducer into ~~the~~ a fluid stream under conditions such that the incipient drag reducer undergoes an induction period during which it remains non-shear sensitive and thereafter forms a shear-sensitive drag reducer in the fluid stream.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the fluid stream is in a pipeline.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the fluid stream is a hydrocarbon stream.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the hydrocarbon stream is the product of passing a hydrocarbon stream from a geological formation through a desalter.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 3 wherein the hydrocarbon stream is the product of passing a hydrocarbon stream from a geological formation through a dehydrator.

6. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the hydrocarbon stream is the product of passing a hydrocarbon stream from a geological formation through a desalter and a dehydrator.

7. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the components of the drag reducer have been first combined to form a smaller number of components, and then the smaller number of components are admixed to form the incipient drag reducer.

8. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 7 wherein the smaller number of components are admixed in varying ratios to produce an incipient drag reducer having varying properties.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the incipient drag reducer is injected at varying rates.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the ratio of the drag reducer components is varied according to the properties of the fluid stream.

11. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 9 wherein the rate of injection of the incipient drag reducer is varied according to the rate of flow of the fluid stream.

12. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 7 wherein the incipient drag reducer is prepared by admixing ~~two~~ only the first and second drag reducer components.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein ~~a~~ the first drag reducer component comprises an aluminum monocarboxylate in a hydrocarbon solvent, wherein the aluminum monocarboxylate is made from a fatty acid having from 6 to 54 carbon atoms, and ~~a~~ the second drag reducer component comprises a carboxylic acid having from 6 to 54 carbon atoms.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 12 wherein ~~a~~ the first drag reducer component comprises an aluminum dicarboxylate in a hydrocarbon solvent, wherein the aluminum dicarboxylate is made from a fatty acid having from 6 to 54 carbon atoms, and a the second drag reducer component comprises a carboxylic acid having from 6 to 54 carbon atoms.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the drag reducer components are admixed at sub-ambient temperatures.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the drag reducer components are admixed at supra-ambient temperatures.

17. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for introducing a drag reducer into a fluid stream comprising at least two sources of drag reducing components, at least two metering devices for combining a predetermined ratio of the drag reducing components, at least one mixing device, and at least one exit from the at least one mixing device.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the apparatus additionally comprises a computer as a local controller.

19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the controller is a SENTRY SYSTEM.

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein at least one flow meter is a positive displacement flow meter.